

Our Sunday Article—A Sermon From Moody.

WASHOE COUNTY OFFICIAL PRESS

O. C. TOWNING, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17, 1894.

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

The situation in South Carolina remains unchanged.

Vice President Forry has received the votes of fourteen States.

Italy has voted to abolish the death penalty.

The Ohio Democrats will be called to meet on the 8th of January, and declare for Tilden.

News from the Conference maintains that a Russian and Turkish war is inevitable.

Some sensible remarks from Governor Mayo, on the situation, will be found among our telegrams.

OUR STATE TAX.

We hope to see the next Legislature, now so soon to assemble, make another reduction in the rate of the State tax, say from 90 to 70 cents, or still lower if possible. Two years ago a reduction was made from \$1.25 to 90 cents on each \$100 valuation of all property in the State. Since that time our State has increased in population and wealth to such a degree that we are warranted in calling upon the Legislature, to make an additional reduction of about twenty cents. To do this it may be necessary to utilize the securities in the School Fund, some \$300,000, and the \$100,000 of U. S. bonds in the Territorial Sinking Fund, by purchasing for the benefit of the School Fund, some of the outstanding bonded indebtedness of the State. There would in this manner be no danger of the School Fund becoming impaired, and we are all in favor of maintaining the pledges of our Constitution providing that certain money shall be solemnly kept for educational purposes. Exclusive of our School Fund, the financial condition of the State on the 1st of January will put us \$200,000 in debt, for the debt of the State on Territorial account is \$380,000, and our assets in the Sinking Fund only \$100,000. Our State debt proper will be about \$100,000, and to offset this we have assets of \$150,000. But there will be no floating debt. At that time the General Fund will contain \$100,000, but the expenses of the Legislature will consume it. The State Building Fund will contain some \$90,000, but the people naturally expect that will be appropriated for completing the new State Prison at Reno. The Legislature may incur additional expenses which would leave us still further behind, and unless some such a transfer of securities can be made as suggested, there can be no reduction of the present tax. But we believe such a transfer can and ought to be made, and if it is, the people will receive the benefit of a reduction of twenty cents in the State rate of taxation. And it is right that they should have it.

THE SPECIAL ORDER.

On motion of Thurman, the bill reported from the Senate Judiciary Committee on the 13th of July last, to amend the Act of July 1, 1892, and July 2, 1891, to aid in the construction of a railroad from the Mississippi river to the Pacific Ocean, was made a special order for the third Tuesday of January next. This is the bill which provides for the establishment of a sinking fund to liquidate the indebtedness due from the Pacific Railroad Companies to the Government. The Central Pacific is to-day indebted to the General Government in the sum of \$23,000,000, or thereabouts, and that sum bears interest at six per cent. per annum. That is to say the company will be indebted to the Government when the bonds become due in the sum of \$30,000,000; for which the Government has no security other than the road itself, and the road subject to the first mortgage liens. It is therefore about time that the Government began to devise some means by which it shall become reimbursed.

FROM RENO AND FRANKTOWN.—This morning Reno sent a regular emetic of bright gentlemen to Carson. We saw Hagerman, Hoole, Haydon and Col. Richardson, and last, but by no means the largest and best, in came Billy Thompson, from Dall's Mill, Franktown. It's on Reno State Prison business the gentlemen are on, but up to two o'clock the Board had not met.—*Carson Tribune of last eve.*

Last Sunday we gave some extracts from a sermon delivered by Moody. To-day we present a few brief remarks made by the same person on a different subject, so that our religiously inclined readers can note the difference in his style of argument. Moody and Sankey are still holding forth to large audiences at the Tabernacle in Chicago, and on the occasion of the delivery of this sermon, at the evening service some two weeks ago, the attendance was extremely large. Every available seat on the main floor and in the galleries was occupied, and quite a number of camp-stools had to be brought into requisition in some of the aisles. Several hundred people were unable to gain admittance, and an overflow meeting was accordingly organized at Farwell hall.

The services were opened with the singing of the hymn commencing:

God loved the world of sinners lost
And valued by the gift;
Salvation full at highest cost,
No other true to all.

Mr. Moody offered a brief prayer, after which the choir sang the hymn:

Guide me, O, thou great Jehovah,
Phaeton through this barren land.

After Mr. Sankey had sung his famous "Ninety and Nine," Mr. Moody read the 23d chapter of Luke, from the 33d verse, and made it a text for a very short sermon on conversion. Some people, he said, had told him that he had got them into darkness in reference to conversions, and for such doubtful ones he had a few words. When the two thieves were led out to be punished, they reviled and scoffed at Christ, but during the day one of them was converted, and God saved him from the very borders of hell. God never was in a position but what He could hear sinners. This thief, who confessed Christ, had done no good work to commend him; he was a lost and ruined sinner, mangled and bruised, and the worst kind of a thief. He had no doubt been guilty of murder, and had he lived in this day would be an inmate of a penitentiary. His trial had not softened his heart any, and he came to the cross reviling Christ. But the fear of the Lord came upon him, and he confessed his own sins. He turned to the other thief and said, "We have got our deserts." He first had fears and then he confessed, and it was so with all sinners; they must confess before they can be saved. This thief had never seen God. His associations had been with thieves, and he was on the very borders of hell. But he believed in Christ and was saved. His faith flashed out in the darkest hour. He had never heard a sermon, yet he had faith, and that brought the blessing. His faith surpassed that of Abraham, Moses, Elijah, James, John and the rest of them, and God be thanked for it. He saw no scepter in His hand, no glittering crown on His head, and no subjects around Him, and yet he confessed Him Lord. His prayer was short but it brought salvation. "Lord, remember me." There were no evidences of Christ's kingdom; why, the people stood around scoffed at Him, spit upon Him, and when He asked for drink they gave Him gall. Some people said that salvation could not be gotten without the sacrament, and if anything prevented them from having it administered regularly, were angry and apprehensive. This man on the cross with Christ had never taken the sacrament, and yet he was saved. Others thought that there could be no salvation without baptism. God forbid that he should say anything against the ordinance, but salvation could be gotten independent of it. This thief had not been baptised, and yet the Lord said, "This day shalt thou be with me in paradise." He had confessed his sins, believed on God, and that was all that was required of him. Confess and follow Christ and all sinners would be saved. If the thief had studied for 50 years he could not have made a better confession—"Lord, remember me." Jesus was not ashamed of him. Saint and sinner could make that short prayer and be answered before this meeting was over. Who could not say, "Lord, remember me," and say it from the heart. Just that short prayer would bring the blessing. God would save the vilest sinner in the streets of Chicago. All they have to do was to say, "God be merciful to me." Men say they don't understand conversion, but it was easy enough when they came to the cross and confessed their sins. Salvation was for all who wanted it, and damnation for those who rejected Christ. If they only believed, they would be saved.

The services were concluded with the singing of a hymn and the benediction.

The Silver Commission, appointed by the last session of Congress to examine into the silver question and report, will favor the double standard—that is, silver and gold, each equal to the other, both being legal tenders. Bland's bill just anticipated this Commission, for it places silver dollars on a par with gold now in the payment of debts.

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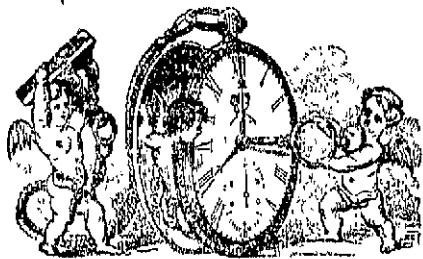
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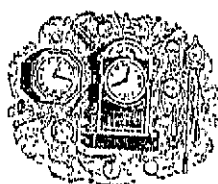
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